

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. If Sinclair believes that its anti-Kerry fodder is "news," then it must surely believe that pro-Kerry fodder is also "news." Our government does not give media outlets free airtime so that they may use that airtime, according to their own agenda, to bash a presidential candidate. If that is appropriate, then we should only lend our airwaves to partisans, and then, equally.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.